



AYYUB

upon whom be peace



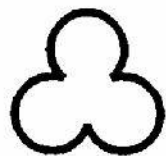
**The
Patient**



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The Patient

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References

THE HOLY QURAN

THE PROPHETS' STORIES, in Arabic, by Ibn Kathir

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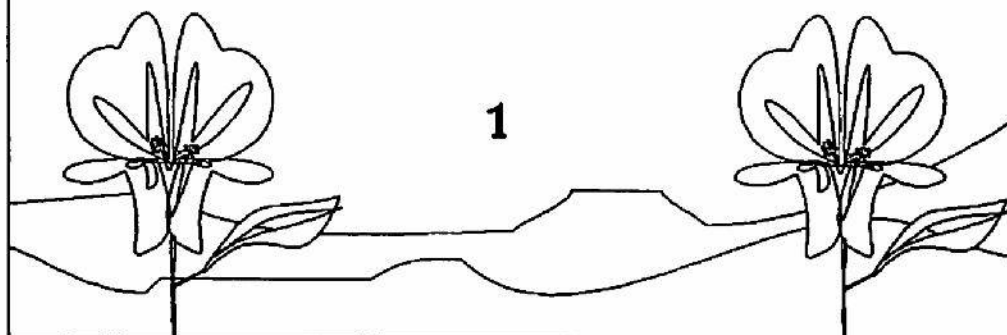
**PROPHETHOOD AND THE PROPHETS, in Arabic,
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**THE BIOGRAPHIES OF THE PROPHETS OF GOD
AS MENTIONED IN THE GLORIOUS QURAN, in
English, by Samih Atef El Zein**

The life of the Prophet Ayyub, upon whom be peace, stands out universally as one of the most inspiring examples of patience in times of hardship.

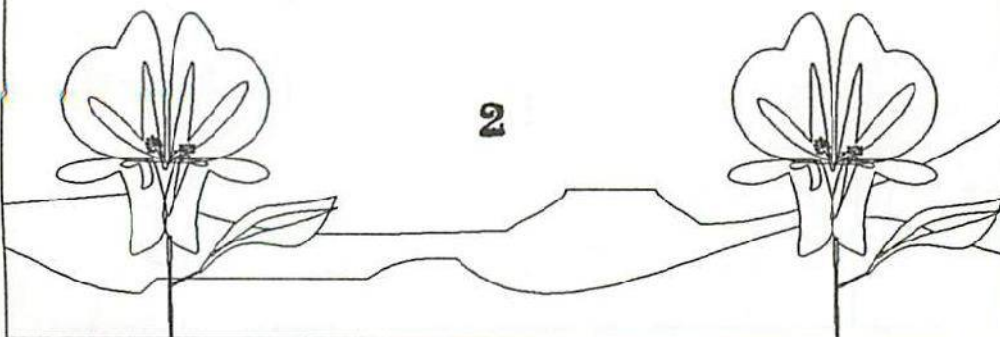
The Prophet Ayyub lived in Huran in Syria near Damascus. There is a mosque in Damascus today named after him. It is about three miles from the town of Nawa.

For about ninety years, the Prophet Ayyub spread Allah's word and obeyed Allah's commands.



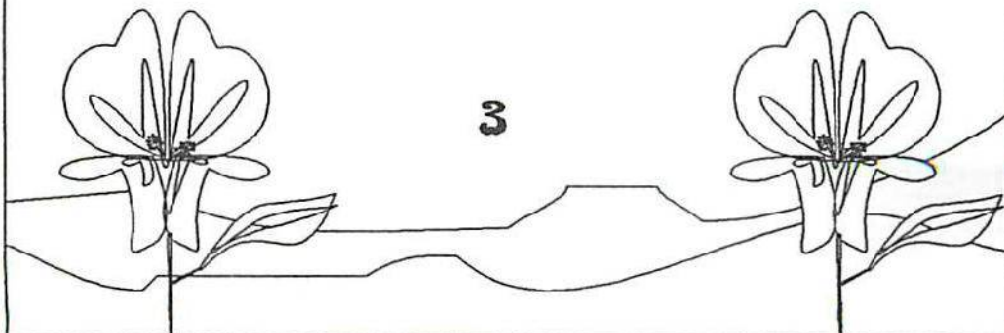
Allah made him wealthy and gave him children. Ayyub offered food to the hungry, and he gave water to the thirsty. He gave shelter to the orphans and helped the weak and the oppressed.

People saw that Ayyub worshipped Allah and thanked Him for making him rich and granting him favors. The wealthier he became, the more he worshipped Allah and the more he gave to those in need.



Nothing, neither his growing wealth nor the responsibilities of being a parent, could prevent him from doing all he could to win the favor of Allah.

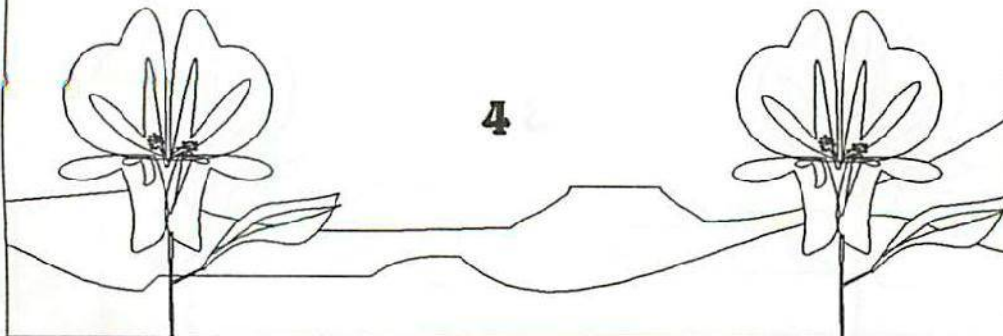
The people could not understand that Ayyub was not distracted by his wealth or sons. He constantly called Allah's name and warned the people about disobedience to Allah. Above all, he was kind to his parents and gentle to his workers. He clothed the naked, freed those imprisoned unjustly and helped anyone else in need.



But the people were spiteful and suggested that Ayyub worshipped Allah only to maintain his wealth.

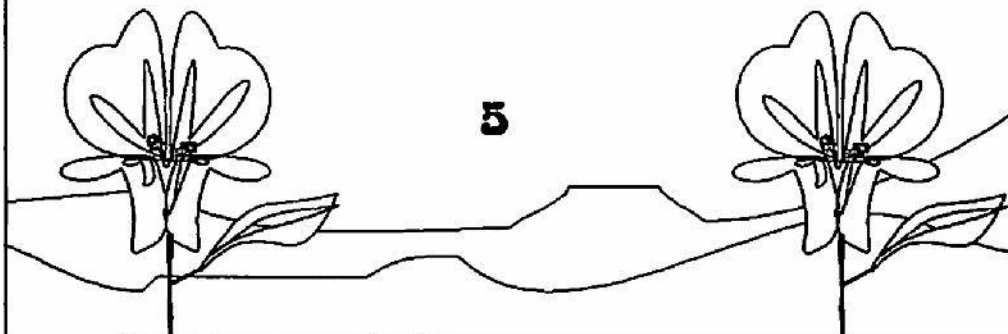
They started rumors suggesting that if Ayyub lost his wealth, he would stop obeying and worshipping God.

Ayyub simply ignored the rumors.



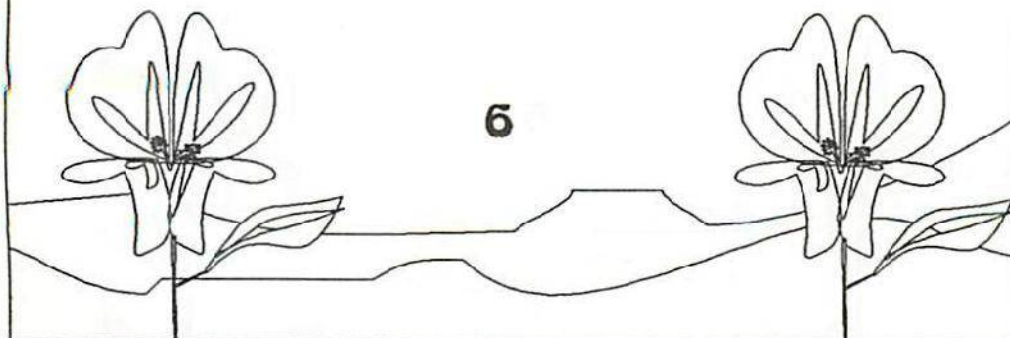
But Allah wanted to make Ayyub into the model believer, into the outstanding example of the patient man, so He struck him with great adversity.

All of Ayyub's money disappeared, his friends and family deserted him and his health deteriorated so much that he could not even stand up or move without great effort.



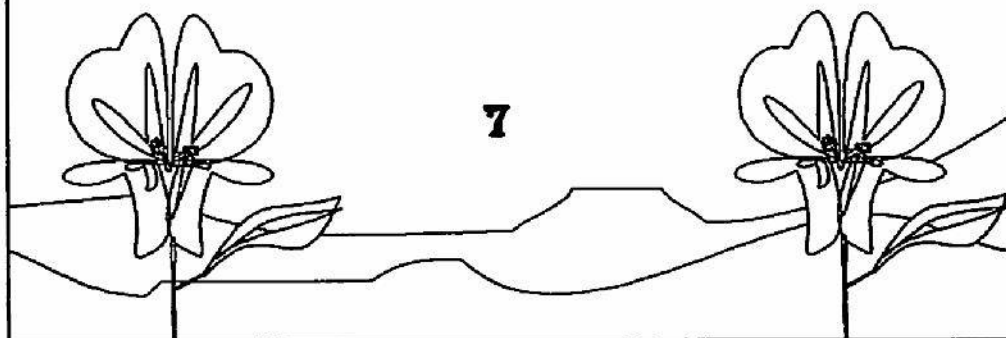
The people saw him suffer, and they expressed their opinions according to their own selfish notions. Some said that he was not really a prophet and that he only pretended to worship Allah.

Others believed that if Allah was supposed to remove hardship and give favors, a prophet like Ayyub should deserve more than anyone else to be saved from such trials.



The hypocrites said that Allah was punishing Ayyub to make his enemies happy and his friends unhappy and that Ayyub deserved such hardship. They believed that Ayyub would lose his faith, but they were wrong.

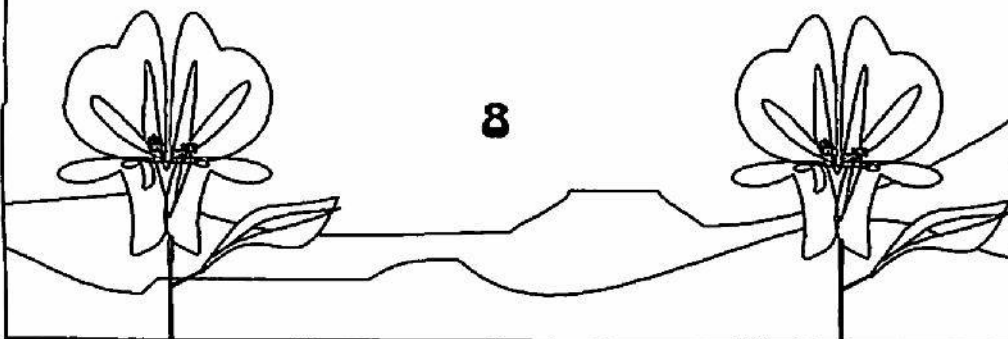
Ayyub remained the righteous believer. The few who believed in Ayyub asked Allah to reward him and to give him back his health.



They admired Ayyub's patience during his trials, and they thought perhaps Ayyub was even pleased by his misfortune, after all, Allah had said that man was born to undergo hardship so that,

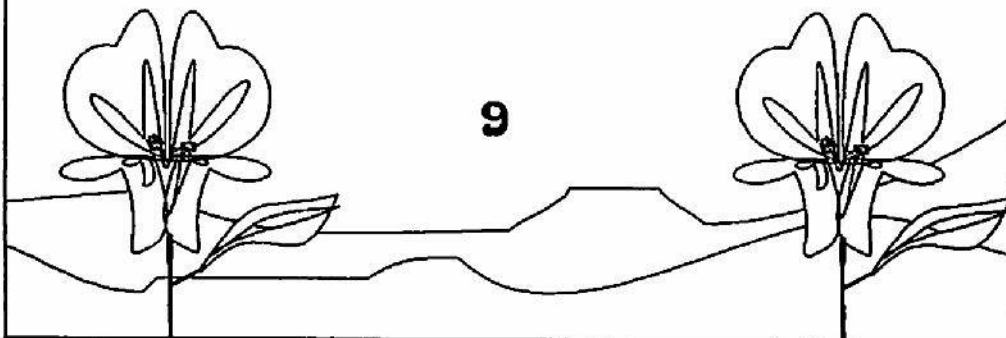
"He might try you, which of you is best in conduct."

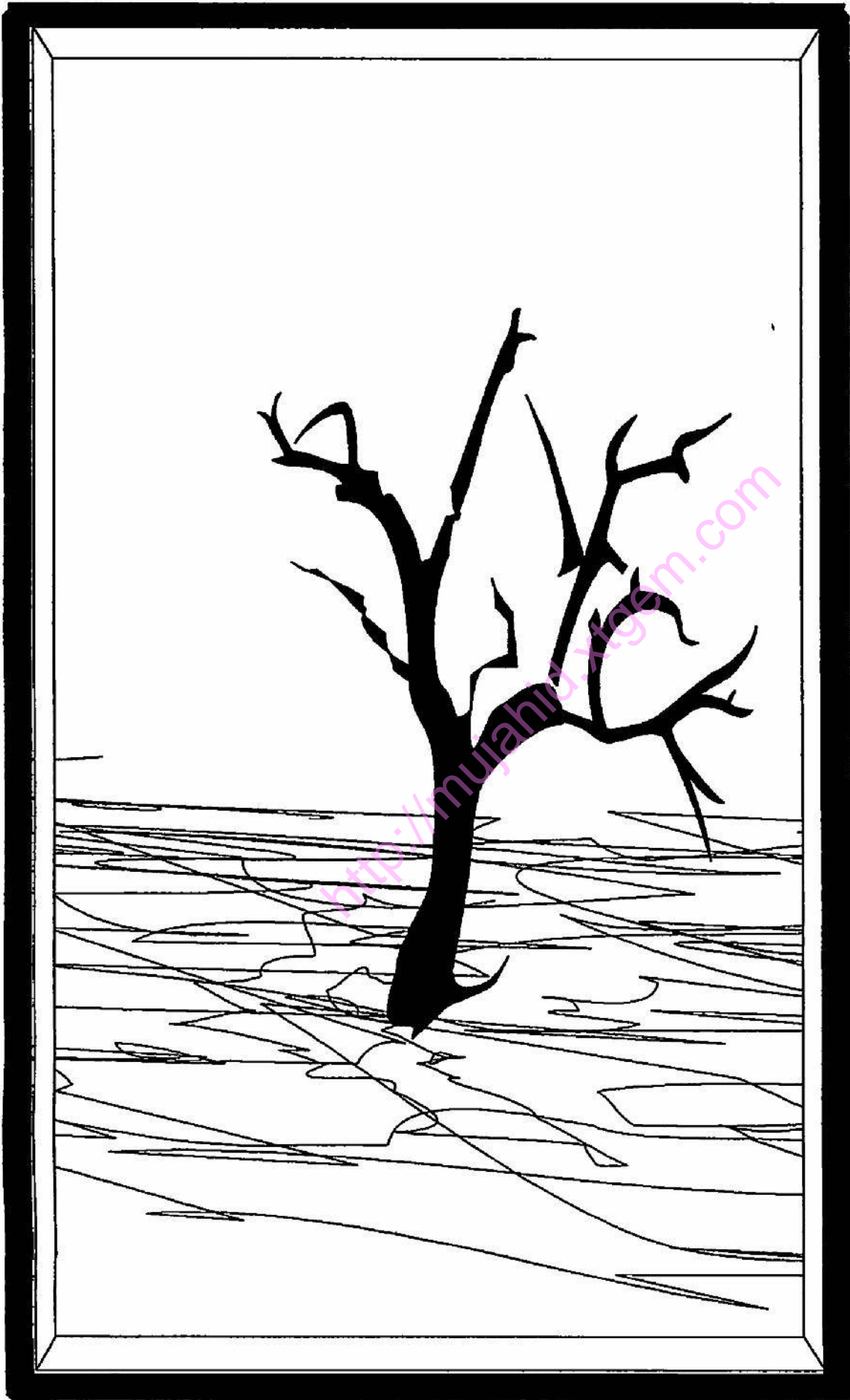
By giving hardship to Ayyub, Allah was allowing him to offer even greater praise to Allah.



After seven years, Ayyub still suffered from this illness. He became weak and pale. His sickness worsened, his flesh began to decay and fall off.

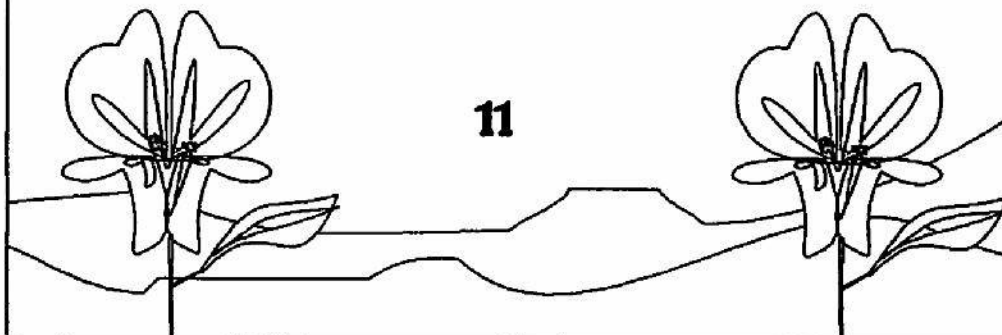
When this happened, even his parents, his sons, and his friends deserted him. The only person who stayed with him was his caring, loyal wife.





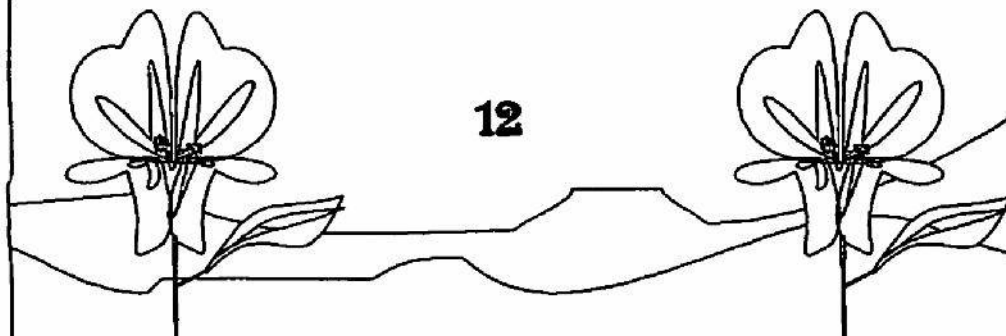
Ayyub's wife had kept her word. She was thankful for what they had and she was patient. She ignored what the people said. Her will was strong, and it did not weaken with the remarks of strangers or relatives. Loyal and loving, she still continued taking care of her husband.

But evil people do not give up without trying to sow their evil seeds.



They insist on planting evil in the good earth and causing turmoil in pure souls, and unfortunately, they often do their work well. Repeatedly, they tried to make Ayyub's wife annoyed about his condition, urging her constantly to leave him.

For once his wife was beset by doubt, so she asked him, "How come Allah has inflicted you with such hardship? Where is your health, where are your parents and your friends? Where are your youth, your strength and your determination?"

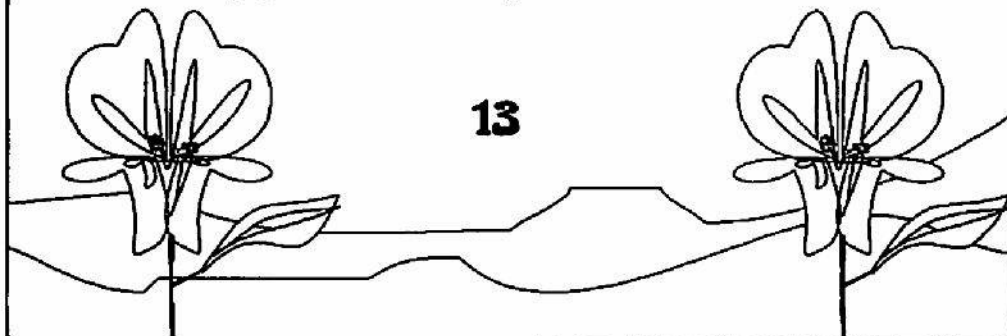


Ayyub replied patiently, "Beware, my wife, Satan is influencing you. Are you going to cry over the riches we no longer have and the children who no longer are with us?"

"The hardship we have suffered has gone on long enough," his wife objected. "Why don't you ask your God to relieve you from your troubles?"

Ayyub looked at her in surprise. "For how long did we have an easy life?" he asked.

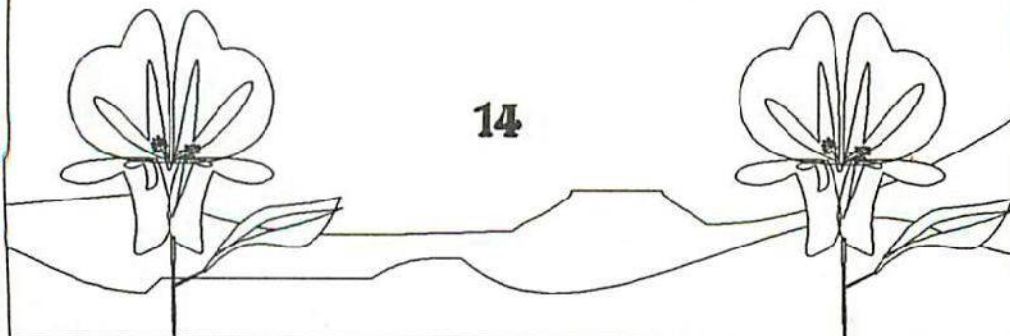
"Forty years," she replied.



"For how long have we suffered hardship?" He asked her.

"Seven years," she said.

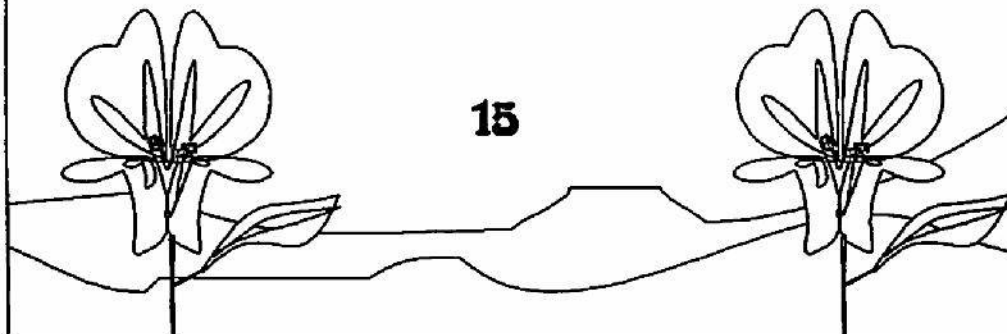
"Shame on you to suggest that I ask God to relieve me from my trials," Ayyub replied. "I am surprised and disappointed to hear you talk like this. Your faith has weakened, if you are no longer content with the Will of God."



Then Ayyub became angry.

"Go away and leave me. Go away until Allah's will has come to pass."

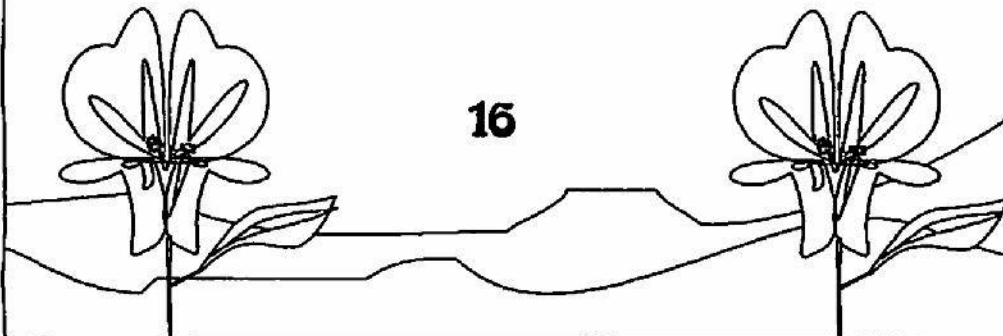
So the people who plotted against Ayyub had finally succeeded in causing him and his wife to be separated. The dissatisfied and depressed wife left her husband, alone in his misery with his his sickness and his pains.



At the height of his hardship, Ayyub then called to Allah,

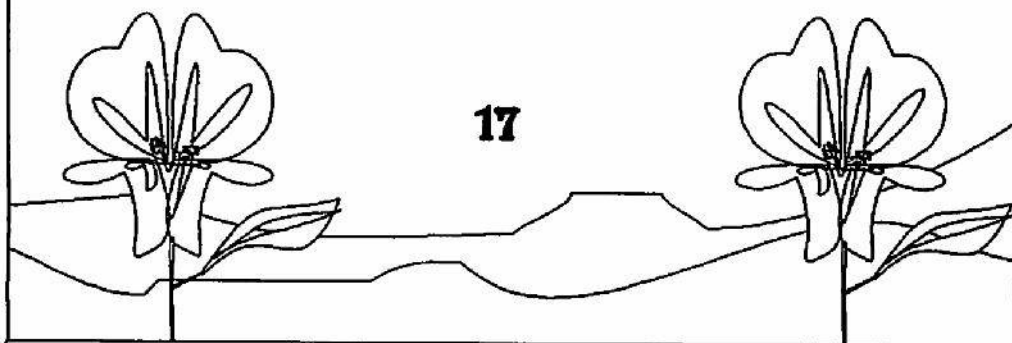
"Distress has seized me. But You are the most Merciful of the Merciful."

What a beautiful prayer! Ayyub was so patient that he did not make the slightest suggestion for Allah to lessen his pain. He was the respectful worshipper who was not angry about his situation. He put his trust in Allah, confident that Allah knows everything.

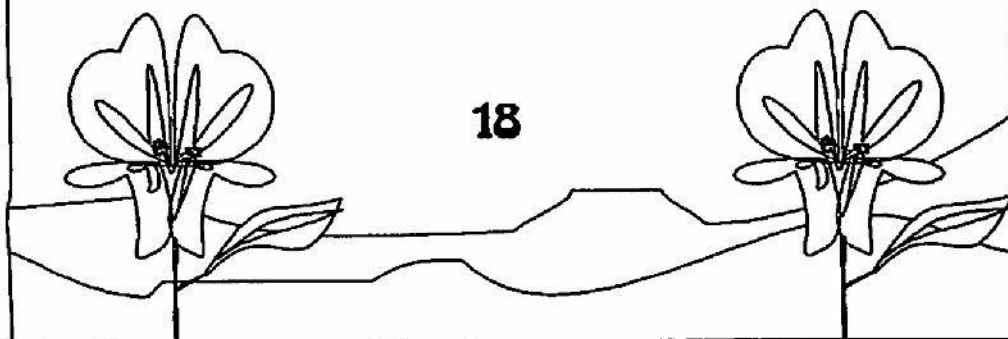


When Ayyub called to Allah with such faith, Allah answered his prayer and put an end to his hardship: "So We listened to him and We removed the distress that was on him, and We restored his people to him, and doubled their number as a Grace from ourselves, and a thing for commemoration, for all who serve Us." He ordered Ayyub to strike the ground with his feet.

Miraculously, a spring gushed out. Ayyub had enough water to drink and to wash with.



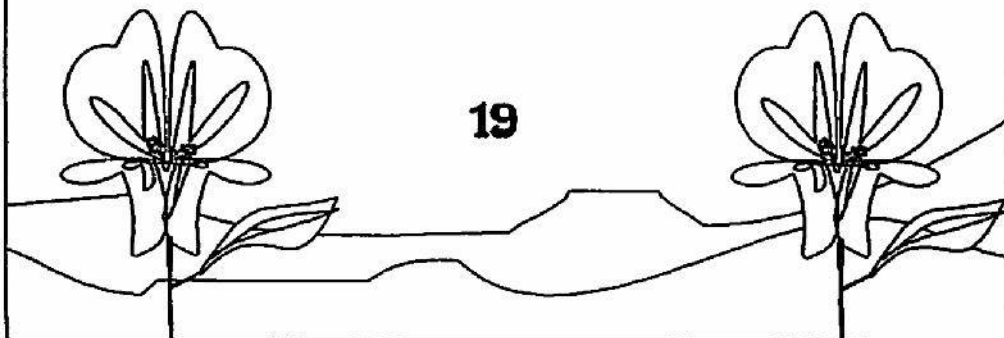
After he drank water from the spring, he recovered his health and strength, and he felt better than he ever did before. He bowed to Allah, thanking Him for such a gift. Ayyub felt more secure than ever before. Allah had promised to return his family and wealth. This caused Ayyub to respect and worship Allah with great dedication. Not surprisingly, Ayyub's wife could not bear to be separated from him anymore.



She went back with the intention of serving and caring for an invalid, but to her amazement, in front of her, she saw a strong healthy man.

She looked at him and did not even recognize him. After a while, she approached him and asked with some confusion,

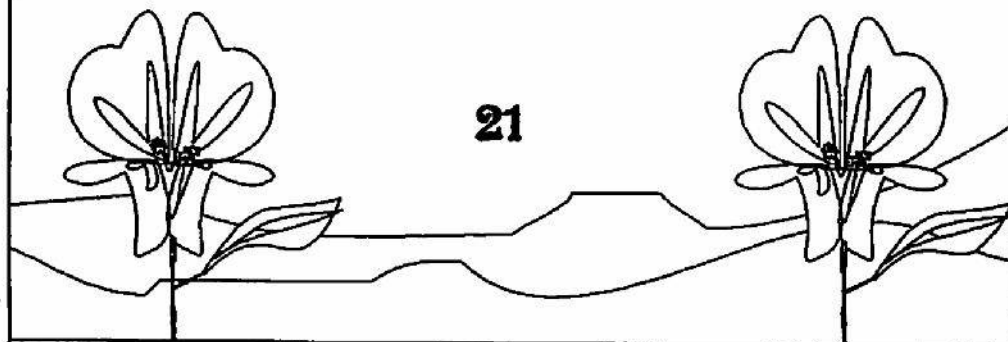
"A sick, old man used to live here. Have you seen him? Do you know anything about him?"





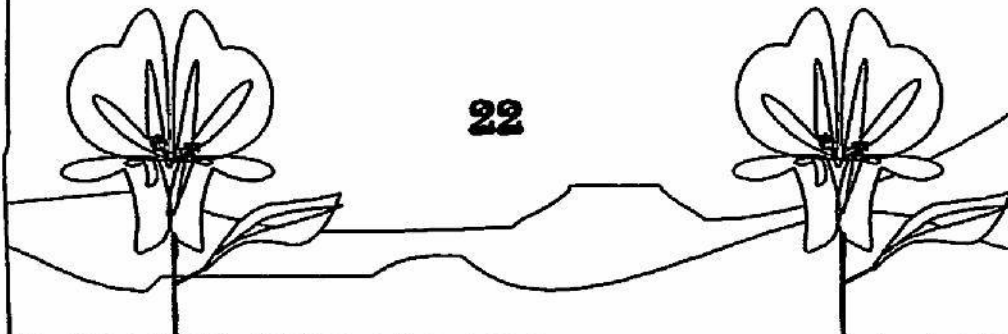
Ayyub gazed at her gently, then he replied, "Have your eyes become so weak that you cannot see who is standing in front of you?"

She was indeed surprised by this voice, the voice of her beloved husband. Yes, this was her husband Ayyub who had once more regained his health. She was crying and thanking Allah for His mercy, then she asked for his forgiveness.



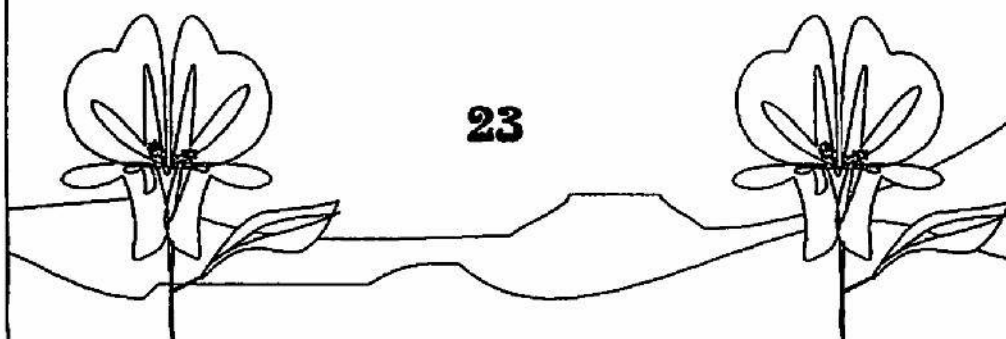
Allah inspired Ayyub to take his wife back. He loved her, and she had been loyal to him. He would recover the loving wife who had spent nights taking care of him during his sickness.

Allah rewarded Ayyub for his patience: his family returned to him, and he received twice the amount of wealth he had before.



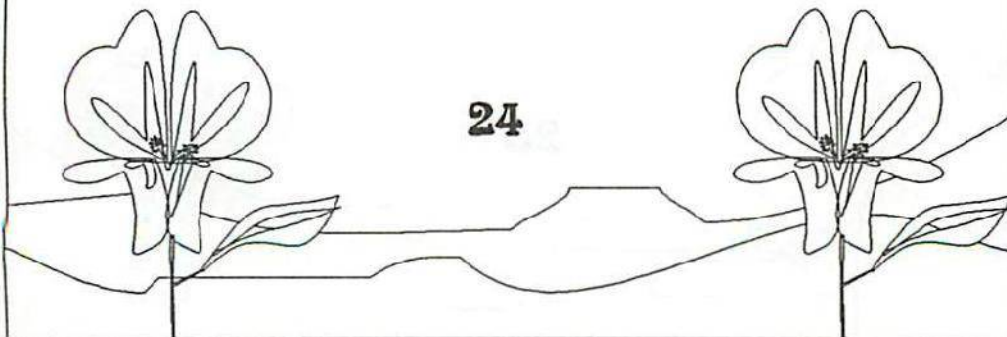
So, for the prophets and indeed all of mankind, Ayyub's situation was an example of Allah's mercy and a memorial for people who understand. As Allah says,

"And make mention, O Muhammad, of Our worshipper Ayyub when he cried to his Lord and said, 'The Evil One has afflicted me with distress and suffering.'"



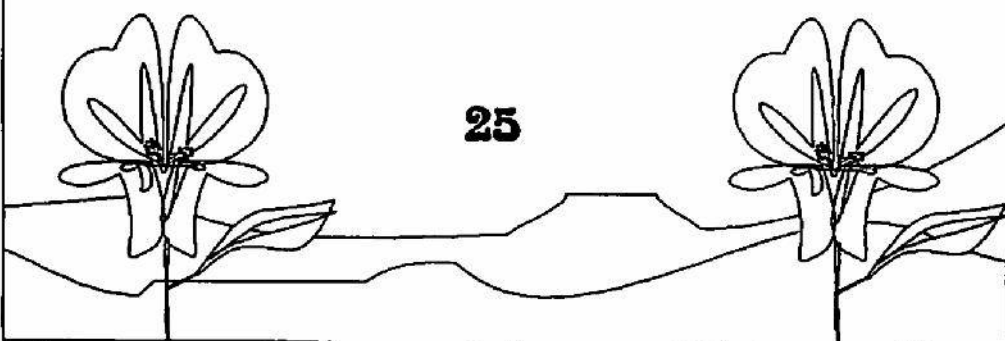
"The command was given

"Strike with your foot. Here is [water]
with which to wash, cool and
refreshing,
and [water] to drink. And We gave
him [back] his people and doubled their
number as a Grace from Ourselves,
and a matter for remembering, for all
who have Understanding.



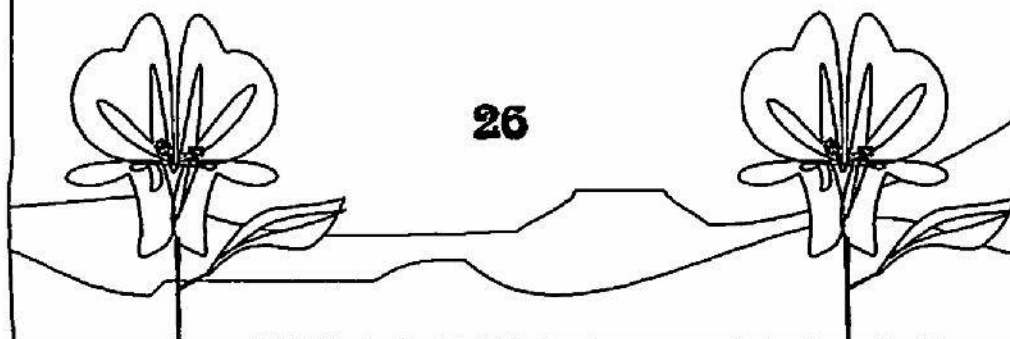
During his illness when his wife decided to leave Ayyub, he had in anger, made an oath to whip his wife a hundred times. Ayyub no longer felt this anger and Allah said,

"Take in thy hand a bundle of twigs and strike once, and do not break [thy oath]. Truly We found him full of patience and constancy how excellent in Our service! Ever did he turn [to Us]!"



Ayyub, upon whom be peace, was a truly faithful servant to Allah. His strength and steadfast perseverance in the face of adversity are an inspiration and a lesson to all believers. This is why the story of the Prophet Ayyub is one that can be told and retold.

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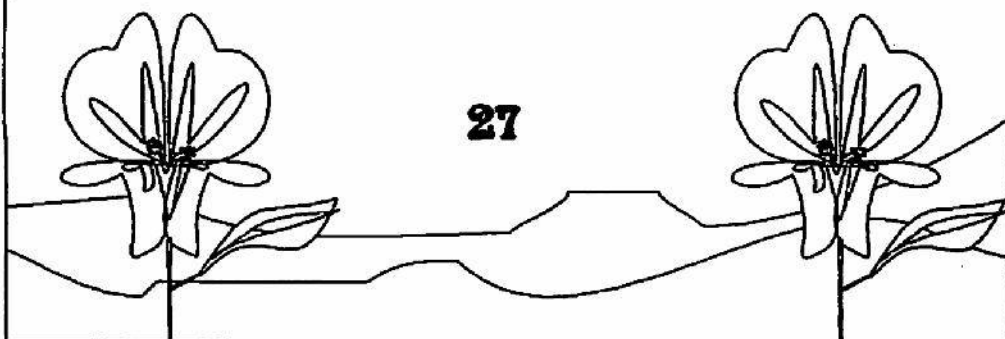
GLOSSARY

DAMASCUS... a large city in Syria
inhabited from ancient times

EVIL ONE, THE... Satan, the
Rejected

HURAN... a land in Syria near
Damascus

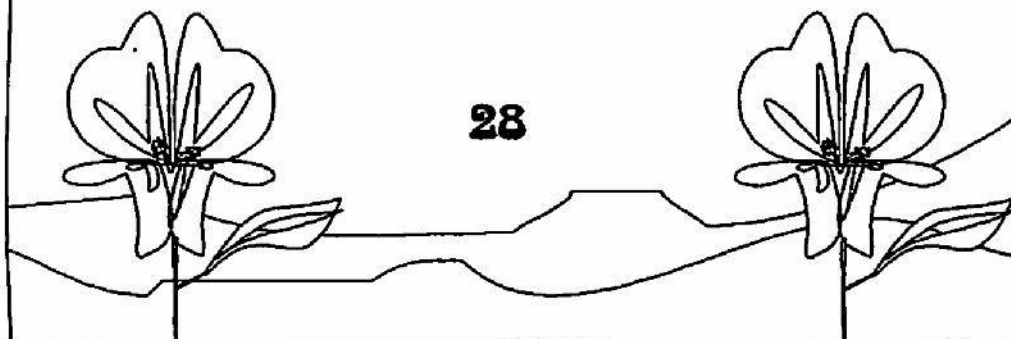
MUHAMMAD... the Last and
Greatest of the Prophets, upon him and
all of them be peace



**NAWA... a small town on the
outskirts of Damascus**

**SYRIA... the north western part of the
Arabian peninsula**

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